



**Testimony regarding HB 7389, AN ACT CONCERNING CONFIDENTIALITY IN THE CASE OF A DISCRETIONARY TRANSFER OF A JUVENILE'S CASE TO THE REGULAR CRIMINAL DOCKET AND IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE POLICY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

Good afternoon Chairmen Winfield and Stafstrom and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Rudy Demiraj. I am the president of AFSCME Council 4 Local 387, which represents the Cheshire area corrections employees and I am also speaking for Council 4 today.

Regarding HB 7389, we ask for some amendment. We urge the Judiciary Committee to recognize the unnecessary nature of the requirement to make all correction employees at MYI and York mandated reporters. Under this bill, inmates younger than 18 years-of-age will be removed from DOC jurisdiction as of January 1, 2020. Therefore, it seems that there will be a requirement geared towards juveniles, when juveniles will no longer be under DOC jurisdiction. The DOC employees we represent are trained as custodial staff. They are not trained as therapeutic staff. Such a requirement for mandated reporting by custodial staff for those 18 years-of-age and older doesn't seem in line with where state policy is going. Using a juvenile reporting system for facilities that will soon hold only adults seems unnecessary.

There are many cameras at these facilities. There are appropriate staff at MYI who are already mandated reporters, such as teachers and nurses. All incidents of use of force or pepper spray must be reported on already. Correction employee jobs are stressful enough as it is, without an extra layer of reporting. The federal government has commissioned a report that states correction employees suffer a 30% PTSD rate. Stress related illness and suicide plague correctional staff. Staff must already report any witnessing of or knowledge of any staff wrongdoing. Please don't add this extra layer of reporting that will be moot in this bill by January 1 anyway.

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wrongdoing. Please don't add this extra layer of reporting that will be moot in this bill by January 1 anyway.

I would be happy to answer any questions.